

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A packing attachment for front loader machines, said packing attachment comprising a substantially elongate shaft having a longitudinal axis, a mount end and a compacting end, said mount end having a mounting structure disposed thereon, said mounting structure defining spaced mounting points for connecting to a front loader machine, and said spaced mounting points defining a plane which is disposed at an angle to said longitudinal axis; wherein said angle is of between about 60° and about 80°, and further wherein the spaced mounting points are defined by upper and lower mounting points, and wherein said angle is defined between said longitudinal axis and a line extending from said upper mounting points and through said lower mounting points.

2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said mounting structure further comprises a planar member connected to said shaft and having a rear surface, said spaced mounting points being disposed on said rear surface.

3. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said planar member is positioned at an angle with said longitudinal axis of between about 60° and about 80°.

4. (currently amended) A packing attachment for front loader machines, said packing attachment comprising a

substantially elongate shaft having a longitudinal axis, a mount end and a compacting end, said mount end having a mounting structure disposed thereon, said mounting structure defining spaced mounting points for connecting to a front loader machine, and said spaced mounting points defining a plane which is disposed at an angle to said longitudinal axis; wherein said angle is between about 60° and about 80°, wherein said compacting end is a substantially planar shoe having an outer edge and being mounted to said shaft, and further comprising deflection walls positioned from said shaft to said outer edge.

5. (original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said deflection walls are disposed along the entire extent of said outer edge.

6. (original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said planar shoe is substantially square in shape, with flat corners, and wherein said deflection walls are disposed along sides of said square shape and said flat corners.

7. (original) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein said shoe has an area which is larger than a cross sectional area of said shaft.

8. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising stabilizing members disposed between said shaft and said mounting structure.

9. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said packing attachment is substantially rigid from said mount end to said compacting end.

10. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 2,
wherein said planar member is fixed relative to said shaft.